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P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

3-13-06

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Michael Graupe

Application No.: 10/603,437

Filed: June 24, 2003

For: PEPTIDIC COMPOUNDS AS CYSTEINE PROTEASE INHIBITORS

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. 4377

Examiner:

Deborah C. Lambkin

Technology Center/Art Unit: 1626

RESPONSE

Mail Stop: Amendments Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 15, 2005 for which a response is due March 15, 2005. A Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 (a) is filed under separate cover. Claims 1-22 and 26-27 have been allowed. Claims 23-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The Applicants respectfully request that that the § 112 rejection directed to Claims 23-25 be withdrawn and that they be allowed.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 27 of this paper.